

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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SMITH DISTURBED BY DANIELS' PORTRAYAL OF INDIANA'S CONDITION

INDIANAPOLIS – After hearing the State of the State last Tuesday night, State Rep. Vernon G. Smith (D-Gary) was disturbed by Gov. Mitch Daniels' characterization of Indiana's current condition. Smith's concerns stem from statements Gov. Daniels made both during his State of the State address and in subsequent days.

"I think Gov. Daniels is creating a Chicken Little mentality where citizens are led to believe that the sky is falling, so they must accept his proposals," said Smith. "The truth is that Indiana is already headed in the right direction and the sky isn't falling, nor is the ground sinking below us."

Smith believes Daniels' picture of doom was painted as a method to carry out his agenda, rather than the state's actual needs. He would like to see the Governor be more honest about the state's condition, specifically the state's declining deficit, so that all parties can begin to move the state forward.

One such example of Daniels' inflammatory statements came when he claimed that Indiana is lagging in education. Smith points out that legislation has been passed in the last few years that has actually improved Indiana's educational status.

Daniels' plans to increase the income tax one percent for families making over \$100,000 also goes against Smith's opinions for good policy. Since two-parent families make around \$50,000 a year, characterizing \$100,000 as rich may be inaccurate, according to Smith. "I would have been happier to see the income tax increase imposed on families making over \$200,000," Smith said.

Smith is concerned about the Governor's plan to liquidate unnecessary assets.

"I agree with the Governor that Indiana could benefit from getting rid of certain assets," said Smith. "However, selling Indiana's toll road would cause major economic hardships for the people of northwest Indiana and I urge Gov. Daniels to fully examine the long range economic effects of selling assets like the toll road before he goes through with the plan."

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